Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1 through 10 – cancelled.

11.   (currently amended) A system for acquiring and tracking data related to ~~a~~ medical immunization product<u>s</u> being administered to ~~a~~ patient<u>s</u>, comprising:

~~a~~ container<u>s</u> comprising a medical immunization product therein;

a read/write communications device attached to <u>each</u> ~~the~~ container, the read/write device <u>storing</u> ~~comprising~~ product data including at least one of product identification data, manufacturer identification data, lot number data, and product expiration date data associated with the medical product;

<u>a plurality of immunization providers each having</u> a reader for obtaining the product data from the read/write communications device, and <u>for storing personal immunization records on respective immunization cards, and</u>

a provider computer for receiving the product data including demographic data <u>and records of immunizations</u>, and transferring the data <u>and records</u> to an immunization tracking authority while limiting access to the identity of the patient to thereby develop a database of immunization data.

12.   (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the read-write communications device comprises <u>a</u> microchip <u>having a</u> ~~comprising~~ non-volatile memory storing the product data.

13.   (previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising a writer for transferring the product data to the read/write communications device.

14.   (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein <u>each</u> ~~the~~ container comprises a unit dose container comprising a dosage of the medical product for administration to only one individual.

15.   (currently amended) A method for acquiring and <u>tracking</u> trading data related to ~~a~~ medical immunization product<u>s</u> being administered to ~~a~~ patient<u>s</u>, the method comprising:

attaching a communications device to product packaging for the medical immunization product<u>s</u>, the communications device comprising <u>a</u> non-volatile memory;

downloading product data to the communications device<u>s</u>, the product data comprising at least one of product identification data, manufacturer identification data, lot number data, and product expiration date data;

shipping the medical product<u>s</u> for delivery to ~~a~~ provider<u>s</u>;

supplying patient data including demographic data to an immunization-tracking authority while limiting access to the identity of the patient to thereby develop a database of immunization data ~~.~~ (delete period)

receiving individual data related to individual patients receiving the medical product<u>s</u>, the individual data originating from the provider.

16.   (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the individual data comprises demographic data associated with respective individual patients.

17.   (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the individual data excludes personal information capable of identifying respective individual patients.

18.   (currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the product packaging comprises at least one of a container comprising the medical product therein, and an injection device <u>having</u> ~~comprising~~ the medical product therein.

19.   (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising uploading the product data at a provider's location; and administering the medical product to an individual.

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20. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising entering individual data related to the individual into a tracking file, and including at least a portion of the product data in the tracking file.

21. (withdrawn) A method for acquiring data related to a medical product being administered to a patient, comprising:

providing a container comprising a medical product therein, and comprising a communications device storing product data, the product data comprising at least one of product identification data, manufacturer identification data, lot number data, and product expiration date data associated with the medical product;

uploading the product data into a tracking file on a provider computer;

administering the medical product to an individual patient;

including demographic data associated with the individual patient in the tracking file; and

transmitting the product data and the demographic data in the tracking file to a location remote from the provider computer.

22. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the tracking file excludes personal information capable of identifying the individual patient.

23. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the transmitting step comprises excluding personal information capable of identifying the individual patient included in the tracking file from the remote location.

24. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the product data and demographic data are transmitted to a host computer for inclusion in a medical product database.

25. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the container comprises an injection device for injecting the medical product into an individual.

26. (withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the administering step comprises injecting the medical product into the individual.

27. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the container and communications device are configured such that the communications device is incapable of being separated from the medical product before administration thereof to an individual patient.

28. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the demographic data comprises at least one of age data, sex data, race data, and geographic location data associated with the individual patient.

29. (withdrawn) A method for tracking administration of a medical product to an individual using a machine-readable communications device, the method comprising:

providing a read/write communications device on a medical product package, the read/write communications device storing product data, the product data comprising at least one of product identification, manufacturer identification, product lot number, manufacturing date, and dosage;

uploading the product data from the read/write communications device to a computerized tracking file at a medical provider location;

entering patient data and administration date data to the tracking file generally at the time of administration of the medical product to an individual; and

transmitting the tracking file to a host computer at a location remote from the medical provider location in a manner that excludes personal information capable of identifying the individual from being accessed by unauthorized persons.

30. (withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the tracking file further comprises an administered dose entered generally at a time of administration of the medical product to the individual at the medical provider location.

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31.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the read/write communications device comprises a magnetic strip attached to the product package.

32.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the read/write communications device comprises a microprocessor attached to the product package.

33.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the product package is a vial.

34.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the product package is a package comprising a plurality of vials.

35.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the product package is a syringe.